

**Created by the North Carolina Division for Early Childhood
of the Council for Exceptional Children and the Children and
Families Committee of the North Carolina Interagency
Coordinating Council**

**Useful numbers for learning more about your rights and for
obtaining assistance are:**

Exceptional Children's Assistance Center (ECAC).....1-800-962-6817
Family Support Network.....1-800-852-0042
The Governor's Advocacy Council for Persons with Disabilities...1-800-821-6922

Persons at these toll free numbers can assist you accessing the state agency
personnel listed on the previous page.

Early Intervention Website: www.ncei.org

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Family Rights in Early Intervention

*For families
with a child under 6 years old
who has special developmental needs*



Newborns through 2-year-olds

If your child is under three years of age and has a disability or is at risk for developmental delays, you are entitled to:

1. Receive a copy of the "Parent Handbook for the North Carolina Infant-Toddler Program".
2. Receive written and verbal information and notices in your native language or usual means of communication.
3. Have your child's strengths and needs assessed in an unbiased manner by professionals with different types of training and experience.
4. Have referral, evaluation, development of an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP), and services specified in the IFSP occur within legally mandated timelines.
5. Participate in meetings in which decisions are made about your child's eligibility for services, what kinds of services your child will receive, where they will be provided and how often.
6. Receive early intervention services to help you support your child's development and address your family's needs. There may be a charge for some services but a sliding fee scale must be used.
7. Receive help with transportation, when needed, to receive some services (does not include inclusive child care and may not be free).
8. Have qualified personnel working with you and your child.
9. Have services provided in places that are used by, or are like those used by, children without disabilities.
10. Resolve disputes with early intervention agencies through mediation, due process or legal action, if necessary.
11. Participate in plans developed for your child's transition out of infant-toddler services at age three and, if appropriate, into preschool services.
12. Receive help from a Service Coordinator at no cost to you.

Call your County Health Department or the Children's Developmental Services Agency in your region to receive information about services. The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services is required to make sure you get the services to which you are entitled. The number of the state Infant-Toddler Program Coordinator is (919)707-5520.

3-year-olds through 5-year-olds

If your child is three years old or older and has a disability, you are entitled to:

1. Receive a copy of the "Handbook on Parents' Rights".
2. Receive written and verbal information and notices in your native language or usual means of communication.
3. Have your child's strengths and needs assessed in an unbiased manner by professionals with different types of training and experience.
4. Have referral, testing, development of Individualized Education Program (IEP), and services specified in the IEP occur within legally mandated timelines.
5. Participate in meetings in which decisions are made about your child's eligibility for services, what kinds of services your child will receive, where they will be provided and how often.
6. Receive free and appropriate special education and related services through your local school system for your child.
7. Receive free transportation for your child to receive special education and related services.
8. Have qualified personnel working with you and your child.
9. Have services provided in places that are used by, or are like those used by, children without disabilities.
10. Resolve disputes with the school system through mediation, due process or legal action, if necessary.
11. Participate in plans developed for your child's transition into preschool services and from preschool to kindergarten.

School systems have the option of providing the following:

1. Assistance in accessing community resources.
2. An Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) instead of an IEP when your child is in the Preschool Program.

Call your local school system to receive information about services. The State Office of the Public Schools of North Carolina is required to make sure you get the services to which you are entitled. The number of the state Preschool Program Coordinator is (919) 807-3994.